Annual Report

of the

Department of Legislative Reference

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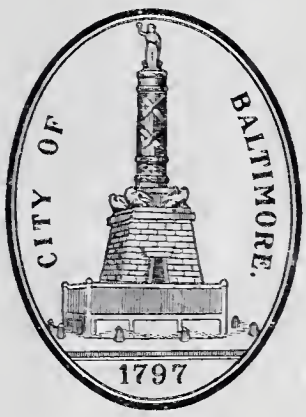
For the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 1913

Annual Report

Department of Legislative Reference

To the MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE *for the* FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

1913



BALTIMORE
MEYER & THALHEIMER
CITY PRINTER

1914

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REPORT

BALTIMORE, January 2, 1914.

To the Honorable the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

GENTLEMEN:

I submit herewith the annual report of the Department of Legislative Reference for the year ending December 31, 1913.

The Department was called upon more frequently for information during the year 1913 than for any previous year of its existence. Information on important subjects, particularly those relating to municipal questions, is continually being collected and indexed, so that as a general rule some information at least can be given on most of the important municipal questions. If the desired information is not on file however, steps are taken at once to secure it. Soon after the November election a letter was sent to each member of the Legislature, calling attention to the work of the Department. This has been the policy pursued by the Department since its establishment in 1907 and the results would certainly seem to justify the advisability of doing this at each session of the Legislature, since there are so many changes in the membership of that body. The following is a copy of the letter which was sent to the members of the present Legislature:

I am writing to call your attention to the work of this Department and to ask your assistance in making it possible for us to collect and compile information which may be useful during the coming session of the Legislature. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of my last report, which will give you some idea of the kind of work we try to do and of the material already on file. I would appreciate it, however, if you would inform me as soon as convenient of the special

topics in which you are interested and about which you desire information. If it is not already on file, I will try to secure it for you. Your request will be regarded as confidential.

This Department is non-political and non-partisan and if I can be of any service to you do not hesitate to call upon me.

This Department expects to receive during the present session of the Legislature fifteen copies of all bills which are introduced into the Legislature and these will be indexed each day as they are received. A card has been devised for the purpose of showing the progress of the more important bills. Particular attention will be given to the bills which relate to the City of Baltimore. There is a complete file of the bills introduced at the 1908, 1910 and 1912 sessions of the Legislature, for which there is a very full and complete index.

It is not possible to give a complete list of the topics on which information has been given, but among these may be mentioned the following on which information was supplied during the past year:

Fisheries.
Initiative and referendum.
Health—Laws.
City Forester.
Paving—Assessments.
Home rule.
Gas—Rates.
Finance reports of States.
Finance reports of cities.
Child labor—Laws.
Schools—Reports.
Schools—Laws.
Boards of control.
Supply departments.
Tax commissions.
Taxation.
County government.
Employers' liability.
Milk inspection.
Fire prevention.
Maryland statistics.
Blue sky laws.
Coal production.
Municipal markets.
Harbors—Laws.
Port development.
Population.
Juries—Verdict.
Constitutions.
Wheel tax.
Waterworks—Finance.
Street cleaning.
City planning—Laws.
Elevator devices.
Inebriates.
Commission government.
Refuse collection.
Street railways — Government ownership.
Somers' system of assessment.

Minimum wage.
Mothers' pensions.
Factory laws.
Serial bonds.
Dance halls.
Negro segregation.
Jim crow laws.
Tenement house laws.
Sunday observance.
Municipal ice plants.
Banking laws.
Fireworks—Laws.
Maryland towns—Charters.
Public utilities—Extensions.
Excess condemnation.
Explosives—Laws.
Liquor licenses.
Maryland—Minerals.
Budget exhibits.
Moving pictures—Censorship.
Street railways—Taxation.
Salaries and fees.
Consolidation of schools.
Legislative procedure.
Boroughs.
Judges—Salaries.
Probation system.
Mortality statistics.
Social evil.
Cost of living.
Noise—Laws.
Smoke prevention.
Cold storage.
Loan sharks.
Accounting.
Automobiles—Laws.
Boards and commissions.
City deposits.
Schools—Neighborhood use.
Sewers—Laws.
Parcel post.
Public works departments.
Complaints bureaus.
Savings bank insurance.
Vent pipes.

Other cities have recognized the value of departments of this kind, so that at the present time similar departments are in operation in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Kansas City (Mo.), Minneapolis, Oakland, Portland (Ore.) and Toronto. New York, Chicago, Cincinnati and Portland (Ore.) established their departments during the past year. Other cities are considering the question and the National Municipal League is co-operating in this work, for it recognized that the establishment of such departments promotes mutual co-operation and facility of exchange of information, thereby increasing the efficiency of each department.

The following list, while not exhaustive, will give some idea of the kind of material on file in the Department:

Agricultural co-operative credit associations.
Art commissions.
Assessments—Special.
Automobiles—Municipal.
Apportionment of representation.
Bakeries—Sanitation.
Banks—Co-operative.
Banks—Laws.
Banks—Reports.
Banks—Taxation.
Bar associations.
Baths.
Buildings—Laws.
Billboards.
Bill drafting.
Blind.
Boards and commissions.
Bonds—Serial.
Bonds—Taxation.
Budgets.
Corrupt practices.
Corporations—Laws.
Commission government.
Condemnation of land.
Civil service.
Conservation.
Charter revision.
Charters and ordinances.
Charities.
Cigarettes.
City planning.
Civic associations.
Child labor.
Complaint bureaus.
Cold storage.
Convict labor.
Cost of living.
Counties—Government.
Dance halls.
Dangerous trades.
Depositories —Laws.
Diseases—Industrial.
Divorce.
Dogs—Licenses.
Drinking cups.
Drugs.
Efficiency.
Elections—Laws.
Electric lighting—Rates.
Elevators.
Electric signs.
Electrocution.
Employment bureaus.
Employers' liability.
Excess condemnation.
Explosives.
Express companies.
Franchises.
Financial reports of States.
Financial reports of cities.
Filtration.
Fire departments—Equipment.
Fire protection.
Fish—Laws.
Food—Laws.
Flies.
Forestry.
Factory inspection.
Garages—Municipal.
Garbage—Collection.
Garbage—Disposal.
Grade crossings.
Gas—Rates.
Grain inspection.
Governors' messages.
Home rule.
Housing.

Harbors.
Hours of labor.
Immigration.
Illiteracy.
Income tax.
Inebriety.
Inheritance tax.
Indeterminate sentences.
Industrial education.
Industrial accidents.
Insurance—Investments.
Insurance—Laws.
Insanity.
Irrigation and drainage.
Initiative and referendum.
Juvenile courts.
Juvenile delinquency.
Jury commissioners.
Legislatures—Expenses.
Legislatures—Printing.
Legislative procedure.
Legislative reference work
Licenses.
Laws of States.
Loan sharks.
Lobbying.
Labor—Laws.
Labor—Reports.
Liquor licensing boards.
Liquor problem.
Municipal courts.
Municipal leagues.
Municipal ownership.
Municipal research.
Municipal newspapers.
Municipal lighting—Reports.
Municipal lighting—Rates.
Mayors' messages.
Motion pictures—Censorship.
Mosquitoes.
Meats.
Markets.
Milk.
Mines and mining.
Municipalities—General.
Maryland Legislature.
Negro suffrage.
Negro segregation.
Noise.
Oysters.
Old age pensions.
Open-air schools.
Pensions—Mothers'.
Primary elections.
Paving.
Public comfort stations.
Prisons.
Probation.
Parole.
Police—Uniforms.
Police departments.
Presidential preference primaries.
Plumbing.
Proportional representation.
Public service commissions.
Parks.
Playgrounds.
Parcel post.
Postal savings banks.
Public utilities.
Public health.
Rats.
Railroads—Rates.
Railroads—Regulations.
Railroads—Terminal facilities.
Railroads—Electrification.
Roads.
Recall.
Representation.
Salaries and fees.
Savings banks—Insurance.
Short ballot.
Single tax.
State constitutions.

Switching charges.
Street cleaning.
Schools—Compulsory attendance.
Schools—Consolidation.
Schools—Neighborhood use.
Schools—Medical inspection.
Sewerage.
Sewage sludge.
Social evil.
Street railways.
Smoke.
Subways.
Swimming pools.
Tax laws.
Taxation.
Tariff.
Testing laboratories.
Telephones—Rates.
Torren's system.
Traffic.
Trees.
Typhoid fever.
Tuberculosis.
Unemployed.
Uniform accounting.
Vocational education.
Vital statistics.
Wages.
Water supply.
Water rates.
Waterways.
Weapons.
Weights and measures.
Woman suffrage.
Workmen's compensation.

During the past year there were added to our collection two hundred and eighty-two books and fifteen hundred and eighty-two pamphlets, making a total of twenty hundred and twenty-seven books and ninety-six hundred and seventeen pamphlets. In addition to the books and pamphlets, there is quite a collection of magazines, legislative bills of other States, newspaper clippings, duplicate copies of the more important pamphlets and documents, as well as a complete file of the bills for the last three sessions of the Maryland Legislature. During the year quite a number of compilations were made, among which may be mentioned the following:

Vent pipes.
Complaint bureaus.
Anti-noise ordinances.
Legislative procedure.
Excess condemnation.
Taxation of banks.
Extension of public utilities.
Elevator devices.
Departments of public works.
Tax rates of cities.

Over five hundred documents and pamphlets were loaned; but, of course, the greater number of inquiries were answered at once or the information forwarded without the necessity of

letting the documents leave the office. Over four thousand communications were sent out from the Department, either asking or giving information.

The total expenditures of the Department for the year 1913 were $3,629.25.

The officials of the city and State have been extremely kind and courteous in furnishing the Department with information, reports, etc., when so requested, and I desire to take this occasion to extend my thanks for the co-operation and assistance which has been extended to the Department by them.

I also desire to take this occasion to commend the industrious and efficient work of my assistants, Misses Ella S. Hitchcock and Nellie W. Mewshaw, who have aided so greatly in increasing the usefulness of the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

HORACE E. FLACK,

Executive.